

## CLAIMS SUMMARY:

1. (Amended) ~~Brake device having an actuator (1), which is operated by a pressure medium, for the application and release of a vehicle brake (2), particularly of a rail vehicle brake, containing an adjusting piston (6) which is displaceable within a brake cylinder (4) and which bounds pressure chambers (12, 14) by means of piston sides facing away from one another, of which pressure chambers (12, 14), one pressure chamber (12) acts upon the vehicle brake (2) in the application position, and the other pressure chamber (14) acts upon the vehicle brake (2) in the release position, wherein the two pressure chambers (12, 14) are mutually connected by a line (26) having an overflow valve (28), which is opened at least during a portion of a transition phase between the release position and the application position and/or between the application position and the release position and is otherwise closed.~~

A brake device having an actuator comprising:

a brake cylinder and a piston in and dividing the brake cylinder into an application pressure chamber and a release pressure chamber ;

an overflow valve connecting the two pressure chambers, the overflow valve being opened at least during a portion of both transition phases between the application position and the release position until essentially a pressure balance exists between the two pressure chambers and is otherwise closed; and

ventilation and bleeder valves connected to the two chambers for pressurizing and bleeding the two pressure chambers, the ventilation and bleeder valves are closed during the opening time of the overflow valve, and a pressure buildup or a pressure reduction exceeding the pressure balance in the two pressure chambers takes place by opening or closing the ventilation and bleeder valves.

2. ~~Brake~~ The brake device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the adjusting~~ wherein the piston (6) is spring-loaded in the direction of the application position.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Amended) ~~Brake~~ The brake device according to Claim 2 3, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the overflow valve (28) is opened until a fraction of a maximally achievable braking  
force or releasing force ~~is~~ has been generated.

5. (Canceled )

6. (Canceled ).

7. (New)      The brake device according to Claim 1 , wherein the overflow valve is  
opened until a fraction of a maximally achievable braking force or releasing force has been  
generated.